(SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir. No case under the "Indian Official Secrets Act" relating to an arms dealer has been reported.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Settlement of insurance claims

2472. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that general insurance companies take unreasonably long time to settle insurance claims;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a claim No. 62|87-88|393 on National Insurance Company, Asaf Ali Road Branch, New Delhi has not yet been settled although all the formalities were ful-filled by the claimant in the third week of June, 1988; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to prevent recurrence of such delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No. Sir.

(b) The formalities in respect of the claim in question were completed only on 3-11-88 when the loss voucher duly signed by the insured was submitted to the Insurance Company. A cheque towards the settlement of the claim was sent to the insured at her address on 17-11-88.

(c) There has been no undue delay in settlement of this claim. The General Insurance Industry has, however, been initiating from time to time several specific measures with a view to settle claims expeditiously such as simplification and standardisation of claims settlement procedure, setting up of special cells at Regional Offices to attempt out-of-court settlement of Third Party claims wherever possible, settlement of claims pending with MACT through Lok Adalats, setting up of Grievance Cells at various levels of Offices and availability of heads of all Offices including Chairman-cum-Managing Directors of subsidiary companies on specified dates every month to personally meet the claimants having any grievance.

Arrests made in Rajasthan, Punjab and J&K for passing on vital information regarding troops movement

2473. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since October, 1987 a number of Indians, including some serving army Officers were arrested in Rajasthan, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir for passing on vital information regarding deployment of troops in the border regions;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the number of persons including the serving army officers with their ranks who have been arrested so far since October, 1987, the nature of their espionage activities and their links within the country and in Pakistan, identified by Government; and

(c) what action has so far been taken by Government against the persons involved in espionage activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from the concerned State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House on receipt.